

Message Text

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S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183110

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PQ, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING, AUGUST 14, 1974

REFERENCE: PANAMA 4782

1. AMENDED CONTINGENCY PLAN: PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED REGARDING STATUS OF AMENDED PLAN. WE UNDERSTAND FROM KOREN'S OFFICE IN DOD THAT IT IS SOUTHCOM RATHER THAN PANAMA CANAL COMPANY WHICH STILL HAS PROBLEMS WITH CONTINGENCY PLAN. AS YET, WASAG HAS NOT SET A FINAL DATE FOR CONTINGENCY PLAN WORKING GROUP REVIEW, BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING AMENDED VERSION OF PLAN AS SOON AS APPROVED BY PRC.

2. LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES PROPOSAL: REGARDING NEW VARIANT OF PROPOSAL ON LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES, WE UNDERSTAND ITS ADMINISTRATIVE ADVANTAGES TO COMPANY BUT HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH GOP. DISADVANTAGES POINTED OUT IN REFTEL APPEAR TO GO AGAINST LONG TERM OBJECTIVE OF MAKING US PRESENCE LESS VISIBLE AND MORE ACCEPTABLE TO PANAMA. AT MINIMUM, WE BELIEVE THAT LATEST COMPANY PROPOSAL SHOULD BE GIVEN FURTHER CAREFUL STUDY REGARDING ALL ASPECTS OF ITS IMPACT AND THERE SHOULD BE PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH GOP BEFORE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON IT ARE MADE.

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MENDATIONS ON IT ARE MADE.

3. STATUS OF LEGISLATION: BORROWING AUTHORITY BILL WAS FAVORABLY REPORTED BY FULL COMMITTEE AND WILL PROBABLY GO ON THE HOUSE FLOOR IN SEPTEMBER. THE LOTTERY BILL WAS FAVORABLY REPORTED BY PANAMA CANAL SUBCOMMITTEE BUT DEFERRED BY THE FULL MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT IT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FURTHER UNTIL NEXT YEAR. NEITHER FRANCE FIELD BILL WAS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS.

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